

REMARKS

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 4 and 69 were pending in the present application. Applicant has deleted those claims, and added new Claim 76 in their place.

2. Prior Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner has previously rejected the pending claims in the action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), based on the contention that those claims were anticipated by a number of U.S. patents. Applicant continues to traverse the Examiner's contention.

Notwithstanding the traversal, it is apparent that there was and has been ongoing misunderstandings regarding the claim language. Applicant, therefore, has deleted the previously filed claims, and added new Claim 76, directed to a specific embodiment of the present invention. Claim 76 is directed to a portable water purifying device which is not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

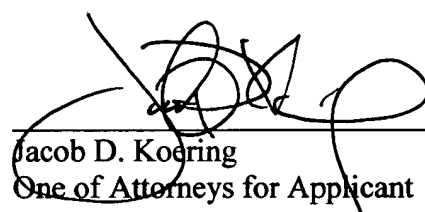
The embodiment disclosed and claimed in Claim 76 is shown in Fig. 6 of the application. Notably, all elements and configurations are shown in Fig. 6, and as such the introduction of Claim 76 introduces no new information to the present application. Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims in the application should now be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and passage to allowance of Claim 76 is respectfully requested.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: April 27, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
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